

## *Our Purpose:*

*Every day, we renew our commitment to providing choices and opportunities for persons with disabilities and their families through a culture of innovation and caring, to enrich their lives and maximize their independence.*

## *Our Passion:*

*Our Board of Directors, staff, volunteers, and funding partners are passionate about helping those we serve create meaningful days, productive years, and, ultimately, more fulfilling lives.*

## *Our People:*

*New Star serves over 650 children and adults each day whose lives are impacted by mild to profound disabilities. Our service area reaches those living in and around the Chicagoland area and Northwest Indiana.*

*CARF Accredited  
DHS Illinois Licensed  
IFSSA Licensed*

## **A LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT/CEO**



*President/CEO  
Dan Strick*

Welcome to the inaugural newsletter of New Star. After 18 months of planning, New Hope Center and SouthSTAR Services completed our merger on June 30, 2016. Our Board of Directors, staff and consumers have been busy working to fully integrate and become one organization. Combining our resources creates a much stronger organization and provides more possibilities for our consumers and their families.

In this newsletter, you will learn about some of these possibilities as we create more employment opportunities, teach people how to use technology in their everyday lives, and create more avenues for living safely within the community.

Change can be scary for some people. But, change often brings many opportunities. I encourage everyone - families, consumers, staff, volunteers and donors - to embrace New Star as we move forward. We remain fully committed to the people we support and the communities in which we work, learn, live and thrive.

Finally, I'd like to say a few words about our retiring Executive Director, Tim Knapp. Tim has been with New Hope Center for 20 years. He has spent over 40 years supporting people with intellectual and developmental disabilities in a variety of capacities. He has demonstrated passion and commitment as he dedicated his career to helping some of our most vulnerable citizens. Tim has always been a person to embrace technology and create new resources to help improve people's lives. He has also been a forward thinker when it comes to working collaboratively. New Star would never have been created without Tim's active support and leadership. I have personally learned a great deal from Tim throughout this process. His legacy with New Star will be remembered for generations. I wish Tim and LeeAnn all the best in retirement as they now will have more time to spend enjoying their grandchildren, visiting Florida, and relaxing.



*Retiring Executive Director  
Tim Knapp*

## SHOOTING STAR SPOTLIGHT: MEET CHRISTINA



We would like to congratulate Christina for being our featured “Shooting Star” in this issue of *Abilities*. Christina learned of new opportunities following our July 1 merger, and expressed an interest in receiving services at the Chicago Heights Campus. Now, after just a few months, she’s made new friends, and has been enjoying all the opportunities available in her new location!

Christina has been receiving our services for more than 16 years, and currently lives in our Dobson house with five other ladies. There, she enjoys cooking and watching some of her favorite television programs, which include *Home Improvement* and *Family Feud*. She loves exercising, spending time with her friends and taking advantage of many of the programs offered by New Star Recreation Services (NSRS) such as social dances, supper club, and movie nights. She’s also been very active in Special Olympics, and some of her greatest skills are in softball, soccer and volleyball.

In her new location at our Chicago Heights Campus, she really enjoys keeping busy with some of the work opportunities there, including boxing, labeling and assembly. Some of her favorite daytime activities include using the computer lab, art class, and being a member of New Star’s Safety Committee, where she learns about and helps to promote safety in the workplace and during transportation.

Wendy Harsh, DT Program Coordinator, has worked with Christina for the last 10 years. “As a person Christina has grown so much. Like any other adult she aspires to live on her own and take care of her own needs. She loves to help and will constantly seek out work to do,” says Wendy.

When asked what she likes best about New Star, Christina replied, “At New Star, we get to make new friends every day. I love it here!”

## GETTING THE WORD OUT

WORK

LEARN

LIVE

THRIVE

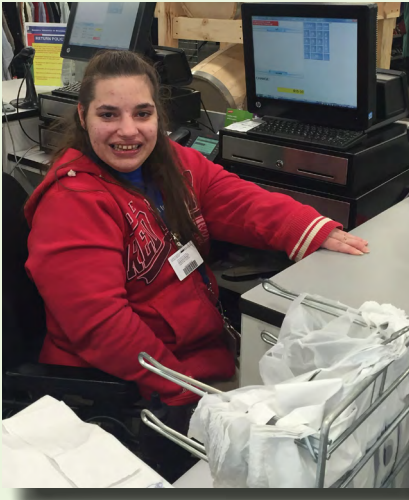
Our broad spectrum of programs and services here at New Star are great for our consumers, but not so great when it comes to explaining to others just who we are and what we do – unless they have an hour or two! So, to capture the scope of how New Star is changing lives through our integrative approach to care, we have identified four pillars around which our programming is built - WORK, LEARN, LIVE, THRIVE. You will see these used throughout our website, marketing materials, and this newsletter to help organize how we communicate the great work we do.

What do we mean by WORK, LEARN, LIVE, THRIVE? WORK, LEARN, and LIVE are fairly self-explanatory. They capture the many programs we offer within our employment and vocational training services, life-skills therapeutic and educational programming, as well as our numerous community and home based residential offerings. THRIVE, however, is a little more vague.

Helping our consumers thrive every day and throughout their lives underlies everything else we do. To thrive means to achieve a certain quality of life fostered through positive self-esteem, lasting friendships, self-expression and self-determination. It means giving our consumers access to social events like holiday parties, picnics, and movie nights; encouraging them to speak up and speak out for disability rights by joining ROHSA, our nationally-recognized advocacy group; and finding opportunities for them to win medals or create masterpieces through our recreational services. In short, it encompasses all those things that make life worth living.

For more information about the specific programs within each category, please visit our website at [www.newstarservices.org](http://www.newstarservices.org). And thank you for helping the amazing people we serve find success as they work, learn, live, and thrive!

## PUSHING BEYOND THE BARRIERS



*Crystal happily greets her customers with a smile at her new job as a cashier!*

Leaves aren't the only things dropping all around us this fall. The barriers our consumers traditionally face when it comes to community employment are coming down as well! New Star's Employment Consultants have been busy showing employers throughout the Chicagoland area and Northwest Indiana that hiring those we serve makes good business sense. Why? A recent study by the Institute for Corporate Productivity reported that integrating employees with disabilities into their workforce reduced company turnover rates, offered greater flexibility in scheduling, and raised overall employee satisfaction. As one of our employers, The Cottage on Dixie in Homewood, described, "Lawrence's positive attitude and motivation not only gets the job done, it's contagious for those working around him. He's definitely boosted employee morale!"

New Star consumers are now filling positions within large companies like Marshalls and Harrah's Joliet as well as smaller local businesses like Melody Mart and Hidden Manna Café. The types of jobs they are finding are also pushing beyond the traditional roles to include customer service assistant, security guard, data entry clerks, and cashiers.

Crystal (pictured above) is just one of this summer's many success stories. Crystal was referred to New Star's Employment Services through Indiana's Vocational Rehabilitation Program. Several agencies tried to connect her with the right job, but Crystal was unable to find work or even secure an interview. Coming to New Star was considered her last chance under the Vocational Rehabilitation program. Fortunately for Crystal, she started working with Tracey McClean, New Star's Employment Consultant in Indiana. Tracey is passionate about the people we serve and undeterred when it comes to finding them jobs that play to their strengths. Rather than making phone calls, Tracey arranged for wheelchair accessible transportation so she could take Crystal to numerous observations and situational assessments onsite at potential employers. Being able to see Crystal's capabilities first hand made all the difference. Crystal now enjoys full-time work as a cashier!

## NEW STAR OFFERS VITAL BUSINESS SOLUTIONS

Did you know that local and national companies, universities, government agencies, and large not-for-profit organizations look to New Star when they need to expand their production capacity? If not, you're in good company!

When we write about New Star's sheltered workshops, we tend to focus on what opportunities the workshops offer our consumers – things like vocational training, "soft skills" development, and increased earning potential. But we're also proud of the fact that New Star consumers are recognized as a vital asset when it comes to expanding the production capacity of many companies and organizations throughout Illinois, Indiana, and the rest of the nation.

The production lines within New Star's workshop offer organizations a talent pool of individuals who take great pride in their work and are ready to jump in at a moment's notice on any job, no matter how big or how small. That flexibility in scheduling and scale has enabled us to develop long-standing business relationships with companies like Sherwin Williams and Tootsie Roll, while attracting new work from companies like ContMid Group and Multiwall. We're even involved in assembling kitchen herb gardens by Modern Sprout, one of "Oprah's Favorite Things for 2016!"

So the next time you unwrap a Tootsie Roll, open a can of paint, or order your holiday gifts online, think about the vital role that our folks play in making that happen. They are an essential part of the production process for many of the goods we depend on each day.

For more information about the business solutions New Star provides, please contact Stephen Reilly at (708) 755-8030 extension 249 or e-mail [sreilly@newstarservices.org](mailto:sreilly@newstarservices.org).



## NEW STAR RECEIVES GRANT FOR LEARNING LAB



*Jaellien and Jamica teach each other the differences of creating a video on iPads vs. iPods!*

New Star is redefining the concept of mobility for our consumers! “Going mobile” used to refer to accessibility to buildings, transportation, public parks, etc. In the 21st century, “going mobile” means having access to mobile technology, such as iPads and iPods, to help individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities live more independently.

Thanks to a \$10,000 grant from Comcast NBCUniversal, in collaboration with The Arc of the United States, New Star launched a pilot project this summer to expand our current computer lab and instruction to include mobile technology. The pilot program will last throughout the fall. New Star staff running the program have been vetting apps that are most appropriate for the project’s employment-related goals.

During weekly classes, participants explore apps such as iMovie, Master Task, and iModeling. These apps break down job tasks, provide visual examples, and offer task-related verbal prompts. One advantage this technology provides is the ability for New Star consumers to create visual training manuals for their co-workers.

For example, a video created by our class at the Crete campus demonstrates the proper use of washing machines and dryers required by a job currently happening in that workshop. Rather than relying on staff for time-intensive training, consumers new to the job will now be able to refer to this step-by-step visual aid!

Participants in the program are not only learning the technology themselves, they are also teaching each other. April, for example, demonstrated to her classmates how to use the accessibility feature so that consumers with visual impairments could better participate in our groups. Jaellien and Jamica helped each other learn about the differences of taking pictures and video on the iPod compared to the iPad, while Ronnie taught one of our newcomers the basics of how to get started.

Another advantage of the iPads and iPods is that they provide class participants with plenty of ways to document the many stages of their learning. Consumers in our Chicago Heights classes, for example, were excited to create a short movie for visitors from Comcast NBCUniversal this past October. The movie highlighted pictures and videos of the skills that class participants had been working on since receiving the new iPads and iPods.

New Star is extremely grateful to The Arc of the United States for its partnership in this process, and to Comcast NBCUniversal’s funding this exciting initiative. Using mobile technology opens up a world of new opportunities for the people we serve when it comes to coordinating accessible transportation, staying connected with their peers, and achieving long-term employment within the community.



*From left to right: Dan Strick, New Star President/CEO, Learning Lab class participants, Debra Marton, Senior Manager of Community Investment and Yohan Fernando, Senior Manager of Government Affairs.*

## NEW STAR TO BUILD APARTMENTS IN FLOSSMOOR

New Star is proud to announce that we are currently developing a six-unit Permanent Supportive Housing project in Flossmoor! All apartments will be leased to individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities who are ready to live independently but still seek minimal outside support services. Each apartment contains a kitchen, bathroom, bedroom and living space, and residents will share an outdoor garden, parking and entry areas.



This project is exciting on many levels, not the least of which is its location. As New Star Executive Director, Tim Knapp, described, “You couldn’t ask for a better spot.” This site is an ideal independent living location due to its proximity to downtown Flossmoor with its walkable, amenity-rich environment. It would be very convenient to live in this building and never own an automobile, an arrangement that makes sense for many of the building’s potential inhabitants. Residents will live in an active, mixed-use neighborhood that is surrounded by single-family, multi-family, commercial buildings and open park space. The site is just one block away from downtown Flossmoor’s Metra stop, post office, public library, restaurants, convenience stores and retail stores.

As a service provider, New Star’s goal is to provide enough support so residents can remain in the community, but receive no more support than what is actually needed. Support services may include assistance in their daily living activities such as shopping, budgeting, financial planning and job coaching, as well as referrals and linkages with other services like transportation and medical providers.

What is unique about this Permanent Supportive Housing project is that 100% of the apartments are reserved for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities. In that regard, once completed, the apartments will be the first of its kind in Illinois. We are proud that the Illinois Department of Human Services will be looking closely at this project to see if it could serve as a model for future residential options for those with intellectual and developmental disabilities..

Tim Knapp has been heading up this project since it started last year. Pending final approval from our funding sources, we hope to break ground in December, and construction should be complete next fall. As Tim describes, this new venture is one more example of New Star’s commitment to helping the people we serve achieve the best quality of life possible. “There are so many folks out there who are looking for this opportunity and it’s a great experience. There isn’t anything richer in life than helping another person.”



## CONSUMER PICNIC FUN



*It's just not a picnic without balloon hats!*

This past September, staff and volunteers came together to create a fun-filled day of picnicking and partying for over 350 New Star consumers! While we have hosted picnics in years past, this was the first time that we served so many at one time. Fortunately, we had the workshop and the wide open greenspace at our Crete campus to house the festivities.

The day was filled with carnival games, cooking, prizes, cooking, roaming clowns, cooking, tours of local fire engines, cooking, and a DJ. Oh, and did we mention cooking? Nearly a thousand hamburgers and hotdogs were prepared that day by staff through a food prep assembly line that ran like a well-oiled machine. Staff from all departments and locations worked to make this day run smoothly. For many of them, it



*New Star staff join forces to meet the demand for burgers!*

was the first time they worked side by side as New Star (not New Hope or SouthSTAR) employees. It was a great opportunity to get to know each other and work as a team.

Many others worked hard to make this a memorable day for our consumers. We want to send a big thank you to the Crete fire department, as well as volunteers from Thrivent for Lutherans, and the White Sox Volunteer Corps!

## NEW STAR ADVOCATES TAKE IT ON THE ROAD



New Star's consumer advocates have been hitting the road these past few months. Ray of Hope Self Advocates (ROHSA) a nationally recognized, self-governing body of New Star consumers are involved in advocacy efforts within New Star and throughout the region. From Bloomington to Springfield they have been getting their voices heard when it comes to the rights of individuals with disabilities.

ROHSA members' most recent excursion was to the Annual Speak Up & Speak Out Summit held in Springfield. This year marked the 10th anniversary of this inspiring event, which brought together over 500 individuals with disabilities as well those who support them. The majority of the programming and key note addresses are planned and led by consumers from throughout the state (including those from ROHSA).

On the home front, RHOSA members are setting goals for giving back to others within the community. Their agenda includes volunteer work such as packing food at a food depository, helping at a resale shop for individuals who are homeless, and participating in community clean up days. We are proud of all the efforts ROHSA members make to ensure that individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities secure their place in the world as valued and productive citizens.

## NEW STAR RECREATION SERVICES

Starting on July 1st, in conjunction with the merger of New Hope Center and SouthSTAR Services, Special Recreation Services (SRS) changed its name to New Star Recreation Services (NSRS). Our name may have changed, but our programs and services will continue to remain exemplary. Our strong legacy of community enhancement over the past 20 years will continue as NSRS!



For those of you who are new to this program, NSRS is a Cooperative of the Calumet Memorial, Dolton, and Riverdale Park Districts, as well as the Village of South Holland Department of Recreational Services. New Star is the service facilitator contracted by NSRS. Its responsibility is to provide assessment, planning, development and therapeutic recreational programming to children and adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities residing in those communities served by its cooperative members.

Weekly activities and one-time special events are scheduled throughout the year. Activities vary during each of its sessions, and they are often seasonal. Activities are structured around its members' communities, but also available for out-of-district individuals for a fee.

Popular activities are *Friday Night Socialites* featuring a variety of formal and semi-formal dances, bowling activity clubs such as *The Alley Cats* and *The Kingpins*, as well as *Illinois Special Olympics* training and competition. This season's activities include *Holiday Social* featuring a catered meal and a visit from our favorite portly man in a red suit, *Hot Chocolate and a Movie*, which is sure to keep everyone toasty warm during the cold weather, as well as the very exciting *Holiday Hits Variety Show* featuring the amazing talents of our consumers.

For more information, please contact NSRS at (708) 801-6699. You can also visit us on the web at: [www.newstarrecreationsservices.com](http://www.newstarrecreationsservices.com).

## SPECIAL OLYMPICS HIGHLIGHTS

It was smiles all around this past summer as New Star athletes enjoyed going for the gold at the Special Olympics bowling competition. Thanks to the funds raised at this year's Gala "Stand Up" as well as the extra efforts of our dedicated staff, we were able to send 21 athletes! Several from the New Star team who won gold medals moved on to sectional play-offs last month where they proudly represented all of their teammates.



Joe flashes his contagious smile!



RT and staff member Shelley Foerch celebrate being "number one!"



Karen proudly shows that she is a winner!



## DIGGING DEEP AND MAKING A DIFFERENCE

Thank you to our volunteers from Enterprise Foundation, John Kasperek Co., The White Sox Corp, and Good Shepherd Lutheran Church who spent their time and talent this past spring and fall beautifying the places where our consumers work, learn, live, and thrive. We truly couldn't do what we do without the many hearts and hands of generous, compassionate, and hardworking individuals like you!



*Ready...Set...Go! Volunteers from Enterprise Rent- A- Car tackle the weeds at Candice House!*



*Smiles from the White Sox Corp after a job well done sprucing up our Carolyn Doerr Memorial Garden!*



*Volunteers from John Kasperek Co. take a well-deserved break for a photo-op with Development Manager, Reena Smith!*



*John Kasperek Co. volunteers worked like a well-oiled machine to get our South Holland home ready for fall!*



*Good Shepherd Lutheran Church volunteers visit with Brian before getting to work at the picnic!*



*Our cookie assembly line went much smoother with the help of our cookie-wielding volunteer from Good Shepherd Lutheran Church!*



## NEW STAR GOLF OUTINGS

Due to the timing of our merger, New Star held not one, but two Golf Outings this year! The first was held on Friday, July 15, at The Lansing Country Club and the second, "Fore the Future" outing was held on Monday, September 26, at Idlewild Country Club. Guests enjoyed a complimentary lunch, 18 holes of golf, games, prizes, cocktails and dinner. Funds were raised through the sale of golf and sponsorship packages, raffles, donations, and a silent auction. Larger sponsorships included complimentary golf and dinner, while others offered a variety of different marketing opportunities.

We are pleased to report that collectively, our Golf Outings helped raise over \$33,000 for our life-changing programs and services. New Star would like to thank all those who attended, our sponsors, donors and volunteers for helping make these two events hugely successful. After all, a successful event is directly related to the success of the more than 650 individuals whom we serve!



*Tavarus speaks to golf dinner guests about how much New Star means to him*



*From left to right: New Star staff Jeff Gajewski, Thornton Township Supervisor Frank M. Zuccarelli, and New Star Board Member Deborah Kopec.*

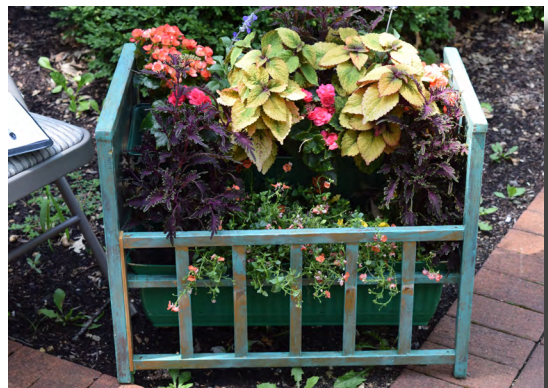
## AN ARTFUL AFTERNOON

*An Artful Afternoon* was held on Sunday, July 17 to celebrate the creative talents of our amazing consumers. Glenna and Dudley Elvery graciously hosted the event at their 9,000 square foot home and extensive gardens located in Olympia Fields. "We are grateful for Glenna and Dudley's commitment to giving back, not just to New Star, but to several organizations within the community," remarked Dan Strick, CEO and President of New Star.

The artwork on display and for auction was created by New Star consumers who participate in a variety of our day programs. Guests enjoyed fine wines, a tantalizing selection of hors d'oeuvres, a presentation by one of New Star's most charismatic consumers, Lawrence, and tours of the Elvery's magnificent gardens and home! This first-time event helped New Star raise over \$4,600 in support of our programs and services. Thank you to the Elverys, and to everyone who made this an afternoon to remember!



*New Star Day Program participants painted this lovely "For the Birds" collection!*



*New Star consumers repurposed a doll crib into a stunning planter!*

# IN HONORARIUM / IN MEMORIAM

## Gifts in Honorarium:

### Cheri Lynn Gineris:

Mr. and Mrs. Donald Adair  
Ms. Mary Aldridge  
Mr. Leo Alexander  
Ms. Mary Allan  
Mr. Andrew Anello  
Ms. Tamara Bass  
Carta Concrete Construction, Inc.  
Ms. Dora Cellini  
Mr. Kevin Clancy  
Door Specialist  
Ms. Mary Dyrek  
E.M. III Architectural Builders  
Mr. John Engleman  
Ms. Joan Falaschetti  
The Flamin Family  
Ms. Melody Froncek  
Mr. Mark Furno  
Mr. Tom Gelsosomo  
Mr. Mark Graziani  
Ms. Lillian Greenberg  
Mr. Frank Heiting  
Mr. Kerry Ingram  
Mr. and Mrs. John Jelinek  
Mr. James Jewett  
JP Fabrications Inc.  
Mr. Fred Junker and Ms. Joan Nutting  
Ms. Mary Jo Lane  
Ms. Cynthia Lenwitt  
Mr. Frederick Lobue  
Lookswell Painting, Inc.  
Mr. Edward Malesky  
Mr. Ronald Masotti  
Midwest Electrical Consultants  
Mr. and Mrs. William Mood  
Mr. and Mrs. John Moreau  
Mr. Willie Morrisette  
Mr. and Mrs. Dominic Napoli  
North Creek Builders, LLC  
Ms. Anita Nowocin  
Ms. Debra Nowocin  
Mr. Russell Olson  
Mr. and Mrs. John Pascarella  
Ms. Jori Pascarella  
Mr. and Mrs. Jon Penwitt  
Mr. Frank Piacenti  
Mr. Jim Posey  
Mr. and Mrs. Tony Recupito  
Mr. Richard Rellis  
Resource Development Solutions  
Mr. and Mrs. Phillip Reveliotis  
Ms. Mary A. Ridings  
Mr. and Mrs. David Rubarth  
Mr. and Mrs. Samuel Santora  
Mr. and Mrs. Larry Schaap  
Mr. David Scheidt  
Mr. Wayne Schmitt  
Mr. Terry Schultz  
Ms. Glenda Selvage

### Cheri Lynn Gineris (cont):

Mr. and Mrs. Nick Serentelos  
Mr. Ronald Sheming  
Mr. John Siemianowski  
Ms. Deborah Spelbring  
Mr. and Mrs. William Spelbring  
Mr. Joseph Spinozzi  
Mr. and Mrs. Ludwig Stadler  
Mr. and Mrs. Dennis Stephens  
Mr. and Mrs. Richard Tatgenhorst  
Mr. and Mrs. Charles Teverbaugh  
Mr. and Mrs. John Vittori  
Mr. and Mrs. Luke Walker  
Ms. Susan Walker  
Mr. and Mrs. Roy Walters  
Ms. Jeanne Warren  
Mr. and Mrs. Howard Wilkening  
Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Williams  
Mr. and Mrs. Jeremy Woodle  
Mr. Andrew Woyna  
Ms. Ilda Scott Yaseen

## Gifts in Memoriam:

### Mary Jane Blank:

Mrs. Vicki Storm

### Susan Blank:

Mrs. Vicki Storm

### Anita Bloom:

Mrs. Laverne McManemy

### Elaine Boyle:

Ms. Lorraine Danson  
Mr. and Mrs. Raymond Schotke

### Violet Brazeau:

Mr. Charles Harrison  
Ms. Vivian Koontz  
Mr. Thomas Shamer

### Tina Dalla Costa:

Ms. Margaret Bialas  
Mr. Ronald Bialas  
Mr. Ben Borkhuis  
Mr. Dennis Dalla Costa  
Ms. Susan Dytkiewicz  
Mr. John Kilarski  
Mr. Eric LaRoche  
Mr. Keith LaRoche  
Mr. Philip LaRoche  
Mrs. Ruth LaRoche  
Mr. Richard Moore  
Mr. David Scott  
Mr. Louis Sturm

### Michael Gaik:

Mr. John Burnetsky

### Don Goff:

Mr. James Aust  
Chicago Heights Rotary  
Mrs. Don Goff  
Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth Goff  
Mr. Scott Hanawalt  
Mr. and Mrs. Frank Kincs  
Mr. Marvin Lyzenga  
Mr. Harry Meier  
Northwest Oral and Facial Surgery  
Northwest Orthodontic Specialist, Inc.  
Oral & Facial Surgeons of Ohio  
Mr. Stephen J. Pilewski  
Mrs. Susan Pilewski  
Ms. Allison Radkay  
Mr. Thomas Ryan  
Ms. Helen Schrickel  
Ms. Ruth Silver  
Whitcomb, Menke, Smith, & Arens  
Mr. and Mrs. Jack Woodruff

### Majara Grasse:

Mrs. Laverne McManemy

### Coy Holloway:

Modern Forge  
Ms. Linda Harryman  
Mr. Greg Heim  
Mr. Robbie Jackson  
Mr. Pat Neiner  
Mrs. Helena Smith  
Mr. Verle Lee Smith  
Mr. Terrence Staley  
Ms. Ellen Steele  
Mr. Mike Swallow

### Casimir Mikrut:

Mr. Ray Fagan  
Mr. Robert Hiatt  
Mr. John McNicholas  
Mrs. Dorothy Mikrut  
Ms. Jill Russell  
Mr. David Wegerer

### John Neugebauer:

Ms. Constance Jerkins  
Ms. Susan Laurila  
Mr. Jeffrey Scukanec

### Al Pancer:

Ms. Barbara Hatch

### Lawrence Ray:

Ms. Georgiana Soumar

### Raymond Schotke:

Mr. Walter Boyle

### Stan Swanson:

Mr. and Mrs. Matthew Kopff



## DEVELOPING THE NEW STAR TEAM



*Melissa, a New Star consumer and front office employee, gets ready to serve the cake!*

This past summer was a time when staff from New Hope Center and SouthSTAR worked together to become a unified New Star Team. It began with New Star's birthday celebration when the merge was officially finalized the first week of July. Staff donned birthday hats, shared cake and cupcakes, and sang versions of the birthday song to mark the start of a new adventure together. The week of celebrating was also filled with raffles and after-hours get togethers.



*Vice President of Program Services, Kelly Berardelli, engages staff in a workshop on New Star Values.*

Building a sense of team within New Star continued with our In Service training days in August. With employees gathered together at our Dolton location, the days began with a question and answer session with Dan Strick, New Star President/CEO, where employees were encouraged to engage in an open dialogue with him and each other. Following the group session, employees split up to attend a series of workshops that ranged from "Living and Working New Star Values" to the "Importance of Stress Management." Staff particularly enjoyed the opportunity to participate in yoga, guided meditation, and aroma therapy sessions.

## REMEMBERING DON GOFF

This past summer, New Star lost a beloved member of its family – Don Goff. As SouthSTAR's Board Chair, Don was instrumental in working with New Hope Center's Board Chair, Ned Horney, to guide the two organizations through the complex merge process. Don had served in various capacities on SouthSTAR's board of directors since 1985, and remained at the helm as New Star's Board Chair following the merge.

Don's passing was a tremendous loss, not just to New Star, but to the region as a whole. He truly lived a life defined by Masonic values and the Rotarian motto, "Service Above Self." Just a few examples of how he gave back to the Southland Community include sitting on the boards of the Chicago



*New Star consumer, Tim, poses with Don at our gala.*

Heights Rotary, Illinois Philharmonic Orchestra, Chicago Southland Chamber of Commerce; becoming a founding member of the Chicago Southland Regional Economic Development Coordinating Council and the Chicago Southland Convention & Visitors Bureau; and serving as a Pastoral Elder at Living Spring Community Church. The list of the many ways he gave back goes on and on.

With his booming voice and commanding presence, Don was a strong leader for New Star's board and a tireless advocate for the people we serve. We move forward without him, but remain inspired to live up to his example and continue to hold his loving family in our thoughts and prayers.



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WORK

LEARN

LIVE

THRIVE

[www.newstarservices.org](http://www.newstarservices.org)

 /WeAreNewStar

## MARK YOUR CALENDAR

### Day Programs and Administrative Offices are Closed:

November 24:	Thanksgiving Day
November 25:	Thanksgiving Observance
December 16:	In-service Training
December 23 - 31:	Holiday Observance
January 2:	New Year Observance
January 16:	Martin Luther King, Jr.'s Birthday
February 16:	President's Day
March 17 & 20:	InService Training
April 14:	Good Friday

### Upcoming Events:

December 9:	Day Program Holiday Party
December 13:	Community Living Holiday Star Party
January 11:	Parent Support Group 6PM, Chicago Heights Campus
February 2:	Wine Tasting, TBD
April 1:	"Dancing with New Star" Annual Gala 6PM, Odyssey Country Club

Abilities is a news publication of New Star, a not-for-profit, 501(c)(3) organization that resulted from the 2016 merger of New Hope Center and SouthSTAR Services. New Star's mission is to provide choices and opportunities for persons with disabilities and their families through a culture of innovation and caring, to enrich their lives and maximize their independence. Collectively, we offer our consumers and their families over 110 years of history and experience in providing job training and employment, daily life skills enrichment, senior care, residential services, and special recreation to over 650 children and adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities, residing in the Chicagoland area and Northwest Indiana.